

U.S. Application No. 09/996,007
Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2006

PATENT
450101-03636

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1, 3, 5-10 and 15-19 are pending. Claims 1, 5-7, 9-10, 15, and 18-19, which are independent, are hereby amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed, and specifically at pages 31-33 and Figs. 14-15.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

A. Claims 7-10

Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,072,983 to Klosterman (hereinafter, merely "Klosterman '983") in view of U.S. Published Application No. 2005/0262542 to DeWeese et al. (hereinafter, merely "DeWeese").

Claim 7 recites, *inter alia*:

"... retrieval means for retrieving a chat room opened in association with a program displayed when said chat is commanded to be displayed by said command means; and

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icon display controlling means for controlling the display so that an icon associated with said chat room retrieved by said retrieval means is opened in said chat window.

(Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Klosterman '983 relates to a scheme for displaying television schedule information received from multiple sources.

As understood by Applicants, DeWeese relates to a television chat system.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Klosterman '983 or DeWeese that would teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 7. Specifically, Klosterman '983 and DeWeese, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest retrieval means for retrieving a chat room opened in association with a program displayed when said chat is commanded to be displayed by said command means. The cited references do not teach or suggest icon display controlling means for controlling the display so that an icon associated with said chat room retrieved by said retrieval means is opened in said chat window, all as recited in claim 7.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 7 is patentable.

Independent claims 9 and 10 are similar, or somewhat similar, in scope to independent claim 7, and are therefore patentable for similar, or somewhat similar, reasons.

B. Claims 15, 16, and 18-19

Claims 15, 16, and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,940,073 to Klosterman (hereinafter, merely "Klosterman '073") in view of DeWeese.

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Claim 15 recites, *inter alia*:

“... retrieval means for retrieving a chat room opened in association with a program displayed when said chat is commanded to be displayed by said command means; and

icon display controlling means for controlling the display so that an icon associated with said chat room retrieved by said retrieval means is opened in said chat window.”

(Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Klosterman '073 relates to a system and method for displaying an electronic program schedule guide.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Klosterman '073 or DeWeese that would teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 15. Specifically, Klosterman '073 and DeWeese, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest retrieval means for retrieving a chat room opened in association with a program displayed when said chat is commanded to be displayed by said command means. The cited references do not teach or suggest icon display controlling means for controlling the display so that an icon associated with said chat room retrieved by said retrieval means is opened in said chat window, all as recited in claim 15.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 15 is patentable.

Independent claims 18 and 19 are similar, or somewhat similar, in scope to independent claim 15, and are therefore patentable for similar, or somewhat similar, reasons.

C. Claims 1, 3, 5-6, and 17

Claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Application Publication No. 2005/0204387 to Knudson et al. (hereinafter,

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merely "Knudson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,299,010 to Nakazawa et al. (hereinafter, merely "Nakazawa") and further in view of DeWeese.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Klosterman '073 in view of Klosterman '983 and further in view of DeWeese.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"... retrieval means for retrieving a chat room opened in association with a program displayed when said chat is commanded to be displayed by said command means; and

icon display controlling means for controlling the display so that an icon associated with said chat room retrieved by said retrieval means is opened in said chat window."

(Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Knudson relates to an interactive television program guide system and method.

As understood by Applicants, Nakazawa relates to a channel display device in which a channel number which is receiving discrimination is flashed while a list of all channel numbers is displayed on a television screen.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Knudson, Nakazawa, or DeWeese, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, neither Knudson, Nakazawa, nor DeWeese, taken alone or in combination, disclose or suggest retrieval means for retrieving a chat room opened in association with a program displayed when said chat is commanded to be displayed by said command means. The cited references do not teach or suggest icon display controlling means for controlling the display so that an icon associated with said chat room retrieved by said retrieval means is opened in said chat window, all as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

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Independent claims 5 and 6 are similar, or somewhat similar, in scope to independent claim 1, and are therefore patentable for similar, or somewhat similar, reasons.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

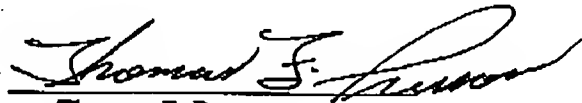
Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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